

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed December 15, 2004, in the above-identified application. Enclosed herewith is a Petition requesting a three month extension of time for resetting the deadline for responding to the Office Action from March 15, 2005, to and including June 15, 2005.

As an initial matter, Applicant acknowledges and appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-6 contain allowable matter. Specifically, the Examiner objected to claims 2-6 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that the claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 5 to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 therein, has amended claim 2 to depend from claim 5, has canceled claims 1 and 7, and has added new claim 8.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,970,780 to Suda et al. As noted above, claim 5 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 1 therein. As such, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 5 is patentable over Suda and is otherwise allowable. Claims 2-4 and 6 are unanticipated, *inter alia*, by virtue of their dependence from claim 5, which is unanticipated for the reasons set forth above.

As indicated above, Applicant has also added new claim 8, which combines the limitations found in claims 1 and 2. Applicant notes the Examiner's earlier indication that claim 2 contains allowable matter. Thus, Applicant respectfully asserts that new claim 8 is also unanticipated by Suda and is otherwise allowable.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested Amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 7, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Michael J. Doherty

Registration No.: 40,592

LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG,

KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK, LLP

600 South Avenue West

Westfield, New Jersey 07090

(908) 654-5000

Attorney for Applicant